

My name is Rob Cindric. I am here today as a citizen of the State of Michigan, a licensed paramedic and the son of Stephen Cindric who died needlessly and tragically in a Michigan hospital in March of 2008.

Guidelines from the American College of Cardiology and American Heart Association state that an ECG should be performed and shown to a physician within ten minutes of arrival to the emergency room. However, this did not happen when my father presented to the emergency room.

A confidentiality agreement signed at the time the medical malpractice case was concluded prevents me from discussing the resolution of the case or identifying the specific hospital involved.

My father was 52 years old when he presented in a hospital emergency room on March 10, 2008 complaining of severe chest pain.

An emergency room nurse placed my father on a gurney outside of the emergency room and went to attend to other patients. She was the sole triage nurse in the emergency room that night. At no time was an emergency room doctor contacted regarding the fact that a patient had come in with chest pains and was waiting to be seen. No medical care of any type was provided to my father. No EKG was performed upon him. He was not given morphine, nitroglycerin or aspirin. No IV line was inserted.

My stepmother found the emergency room nurse after 20

minutes of waiting for someone to attend to my father. She advised the nurse that my father was still suffering from severe chest pain and severe shortness. The nurse advised my stepmother to tell my father that he should simply lie down. This was completely incorrect. Again, no physician was contacted and no treatment was provided.

Hospital personnel who gave depositions advised that no EKG was performed because the emergency room was very busy.

The head of the hospital's emergency room advised that it was "up to the nurse" to contact a doctor if she felt it was necessary.

My father was 52 years old when he died. His death was not

necessary and easily preventable.

During the pendency of the case, a subpoena was issued to a union that represented a number of health care workers in the hospital. The subpoena yielded multiple grievances about understaffing in the emergency room and the threat posed to patients' safety.

As an EMT, I am frequently in hospital emergency rooms. I am a witness to medical care that on some occasions I believe is very good and on other occasions I believe is seriously deficient.

The case that we prosecuted against the hospital was subject to a cap on non-economic loss damages. Therefore, our ability to

seek full justice for our family was already limited.

I strongly urge that you not pass any more legislation intended to limit the rights of victims or make it harder for victims of malpractice to seek justice in our court system.

I firmly believe that the bills that you are considering would make tragedies such as that which happened to my father more common.

My understanding is that the sponsor of these bills has labeled them as "putting patients first." I submit to you that the bills should be renamed as putting patients last.

I strongly urge your strong opposition to this terrible and unnecessary intrusion on the rights of the citizens of the State

of Michigan.